of Passport Offices all over the country come under the administrative control of the Central Passport Organisation which is a subordinate office of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Both in the M.E.A. and in Passport Offices, promotions in Group 'D' and 'C, posts are given depending upon the availability of vacancies in each Group in respective cadres. Promotions of group D&C employees in the passport offices have been given subjece to availability of vacancies.

(d) Not applicable.

Visit of Uzbekistan President to India

1041. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in his recent visit to India Uzbekistan's President pledged full support to India on its agenda for economical development;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what follow-up action Government are contemplating to obtain the maximum positive results out of the talks held between the Uzbekistan President and Indian leaders in thier regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During his meetings with PM and the Finance & Commerce Ministers Uzbek President Karimov expressed his admiration for the success achieved by India in its economic liberalisation programme. Similar sentiments were expressed by him during his meetings with the Indian business community organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry.

(c) The Indian Government has offered to share our experience in liberalisation of the economy and managing the transition from the planned to the free market economy. India has offered training to Uzbek nationals for this purpose. Under our ITEC programme Uzbek nationals are being trained in banking, foreign trade, diplomacy etc. The Indian Government has also offered to send its experts to Uzbekistan.

U.N.A.'s stand over N.P.T.

1042. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noted news reports that U.S. will treat India and Pakistan equally on N.P.T.;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether our viewpoint is being put across to other countries effectively; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Government has seen report submitted by President Clinton to the US Congress on 8th February 1994 titled "Progress Towards Regional Non Proliferation in South Asia" which states that US objective in South Asia is "first to cap then reduce and finally eliminate the possession of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery."

(b) Government remains committed to non-proliferation and has indicated willingness to work constructively with all like minded States for achieving genuine non-proliferation through disarmament agreements that are comprehensive in scope, universal in nature and non-discriminatory in character.

(c) and (d) In addition to participating in multilateral disarmament fora, Government has also undertaken bilateral discussions on disarmament related issues with a number of countries in order to have a frank exchange of views and convey our principle and consistent stand on the NPT.

China's Statement over freedom of Kashmir

1043. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in Hindi newspaper 'Hindustan' dated 5th January 1994 captioned "China will not accept the freedom of Kashmir" ; and